

SENATE BILL 2787

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3,  
relative to the office of legislative ombudsman.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 14, is amended by adding the following new part:

3-14-301.

There is created an office of legislative ombudsman within the general assembly that has the duty to:

- (1) Assist members of the general assembly with dispute resolution practitioner services;
- (2) Maintain confidential, neutral, impartial, and independent dispute resolution options for members of the general assembly;
- (3) Assist members of the general assembly in identifying goals and developing a range of conflict management tools and strategies to help resolve disputes;
- (4) Provide neutral third-party assistance to members of the general assembly when called upon to prepare for a difficult conversation or negotiation; and
- (5) Assist in clarifying issues, interests, and the concerns of legislators.

3-14-302.

The speakers of the senate and the house of representatives shall appoint a legislative ombudsman who shall have such training or experience in government as may be deemed necessary to perform the duties of the office. The ombudsman shall be

chosen without reference to party affiliation but solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the office. The speakers shall determine the compensation of the ombudsman.

3-14-303.

All books, papers, records, and correspondence pertaining to the work of the office are confidential and not subject to the open records law, compiled in title 10, chapter 7.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.